

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • FEBRUARY 2008

Expanded Program to Award 12 Scholarships

FOUNDATION PREVIEW: FEB. 15

by Jane Reilly

Byron Pitts, the award-winning national correspondent for CBS News, will be the keynote speaker at the annual OPC Foundation Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, February 15 at the Yale Club.

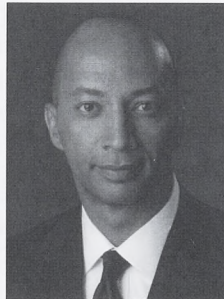
The Foundation will award \$24,000 in scholarships to 12 graduate and undergraduate students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. The scholarship recipients who emerged from an incredibly competitive field are from Columbia University, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Indiana University, New York University, Oberlin College, Oxford University and Yale University.

The OPC Foundation scholarship program has grown dramatically in the past 18 years and is now considered the most prominent scholarship program in the country for aspiring correspondents. The awards are given in the names of eminent journalists and media organizations.

Besides addressing a distinguished audience of more than 200 luncheon guests, the scholarship winners also tour different news organizations hosted by Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation

president. On the night before the luncheon Reuters will host a special reception for the winners at its Time Square headquarters. According to Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary awards.

This year the Foundation has expanded its mission. Not only did it launch the first Standard & Poors' scholarship for business and economic reporting, the Foundation is doubling



Byron Pitts

the size of its internship program. The program began in 2006 with one AP intern. In 2007 the program sent three interns – who were selected from among the scholarship winners – to AP's Jerusalem bureau, Reuters' Buenos Aires bureau, and to *Cambodia Daily*, the English-speaking newspaper in Phnom Penh.

"Besides increasing the size of the program with our current partners, we are working with media outlets in India, Hong Kong and Taipei," Holstein said.

The Foundation picks up the cost of the airfare and one month's living expenses for the winners. Each of last year's interns used their own funds to extend their stays to two and three months.

(Continued on Page 2)

Battle Royale: Whiz Kids vs. the Big Boys

OPC EVENT PREVIEW: JAN. 28

by Sonya K. Fry

Much like the Silicon Valley boom of the 1990's China is on the forefront of a new technological revolution. To give you an idea of the scope of what is happening in China today in technology and the big money that follows, Om Malik, founder and senior writer, GigaOM wrote this blurb on the book *Silicon*

Dragon: "China is on its way to becoming the economic superpower, and it is only a matter of time before it starts to flex its muscle in the technology industry. It is already setting its own telecom standards and is building an unrivalled broadband infrastructure. It is going to be the next big bed of innovation. *Silicon Dragon* will give you a road map for this brave new world."



Rebecca Fannin

OPC member Rebecca Fannin traveled throughout China to get 12 in-depth interviews with China's leading tech entrepreneurs: from the copycats to the innovators. *Silicon Dragon*, edited by another OPC member Leah Spiro for McGraw-Hill, is a must read for anyone interested in technology, business and China, but the confluence of all three dynamic aspects of the new China is an exciting

look into the future.

Fannin says that it is time to face up to the fact that China is quickly catching up to the U.S. as a global leader in technology. Think about the consequences of the following facts about China: the country has the world's largest number of mobile phone users (500 million); there are three

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside...

OPC Holiday Party Photos	3
Press Freedom Committee Opinion	4
People	5-9
People Remembered	9, 11
Book Night Recap: <i>A Shattered Peace</i> ..	10
New Books	12

Foundation to Award 12 Aspiring International Journalists

(Continued From Page 1)

Holstein is grateful to the dedicated panel of judges who sifted through more than 150 applications from 65 colleges and universities: William Brennan, Bloomberg and Sheri Prasso, *Fortune*; OPC Foundation Board members Jeremy Main, Rosalind Massow, and Kate McLeod; OPC members Arlene Getz, *Newsweek* and Katie Paul, a 2007 winner; and OPC Foundation Executive Board members Jack Corporon; Allan Dodds Frank, Bloomberg; Catherine Hemlepp, Sally Jacobsen, AP; Steve Swanson, *Chicago Tribune*; and Betty Wong, Reuters.

Pitts has been a CBS News correspondent since 1998 and covered

many of the biggest stories of the past few years. He was one of CBS News' embedded correspondents covering the war in Iraq and was recognized for his reporting while under fire within minutes of the fall of the Saddam Hussein statue.

Pitts was also the network's primary correspondent at Ground Zero immediately following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. He has covered the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, Florida fires, Elian Gonzalez, the 2000 Florida Presidential recount, the mudslides in Central America and the refugee crisis in Kosovo. Pitts has received several awards, including a national Emmy

Award for his coverage of the Chicago train wreck in 1999 and a National Association of Black Journalists Award. He is also the recipient of four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards.

Reception at the Yale Club begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon and program from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$65 for OPC members and \$100 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its two levels of giving: Patrons, a table of 10 for \$5,000; and Friends, a table of 10 for \$2,000. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For more information, contact Jane Reilly at 201-493-9087 or by e-mail: foundation@opcofamerica.org.

Chinese Market Portends a Battle Royale: Whiz Kids vs. the Big Boys

(Continued From Page 1)

times as many engineering students as in the U.S.; a dozen more billion-dollar tech firms than the U.S.; and the fastest-growing venture capital market in the world. By modeling their new tech-based companies on successful American ones like Google and Yahoo, a new breed of entrepreneurs is leading China through a second Industrial Revolution.

How these "whiz kids" manage to beat the "big boys" at their own game – and what they plan to do next – is one of the most dramatic stories in the business world today.

Fannin is the international editor of the Hong Kong financial



weekly *Asian Venture Capital Journal* and former international news editor at *Red Herring*. She has also reported for *Chief Executive*, *The Deal*, *Asia Week*, *Asia, Inc.* and *Worth*.

Fannin will speak about the new China at a Book Night on Monday, January 28 at Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street. Reception at 6 p.m. with a talk at 6:45 p.m. Books will be for sale and signing.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

Marshall Loeb
Senior Columnist
& Correspondent
MarketWatch from
Dow Jones

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Dorinda Elliott
Deputy Editor, Special
Projects
Conde Nast Traveler

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Allan Dodds Frank
Reporter
Bloomberg Television

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Ciabattari
Author/Journalist

TREASURER

Marcy McGinnis
Director, Broadcast
Journalism
Stony Brook University

SECRETARY

Jacqueline Albert-Simon
US Bureau Chief
Politique Internationale

ACTIVE BOARD

Marcus Brauchli
Managing Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Angela Burt-Murray
Editor in Chief
Essence Magazine

Roger Cohen
International Writer at Large
The New York Times

George de Lama
Managing Editor, News
Chicago Tribune

Robert Dowling
Visiting Professor
Tsinghua University
Beijing

Frederick Kempe
President & CEO
The Atlantic Council

Jim Laurie
Director, Broadcast
Journalism
University of Hong Kong

Marcus Mabry
International Business
Editor
The New York Times

John R. MacArthur
Publisher
Harper's Magazine

Cait Murphy
Assistant Managing Editor
Fortune

Michael Serrill
Senior Editor
Bloomberg Markets

Calvin Sims
Program Officer,
News Media
The Ford Foundation

Sree Sreenivasan
Dean of Students and
Professor
Columbia Graduate School
of Journalism

ACTIVE ALTERNATES
Maggie Murphy
Assistant Managing Editor
People

Richard Levine
Managing Director,
Editorial Operations
Conde Nast Publications

Robert Teitelman
Editor in Chief
The Deal

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Yvonne Dunleavy
Author/Journalist

Kathleen Hunt
United Nations
Representative
Care International

Minky Worden
Media Director
Human Rights Watch

ASSOCIATE ALTERNATE
David Fondiller
Director of Media Relations
The Boston Consulting
Group

PAST PRESIDENTS EX-OFFICIO

John Corporon
Alexis Gelber
William J. Holstein
Larry Martz
Barrett McGurn
Roy Rowan
Leonard Saffir
Larry Smith
Richard B. Stolley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonya K. Fry

EDITOR

Aimee Rinehart

OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202 Copyright
© 2002
Overseas Press Club
of America

40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

OPC Holiday Party ❄️

For the second year the OPC has held its Holiday Party at Club Quarter's Rockefeller Center Hotel. To have a celebration with a view of the skating rink and tree at the Center seems more festive for the season.

It took a bit of sleuthing to make sure that the tree would still be standing on Monday, January 7th. We could think of nothing worse than a holiday party overlooking machinery that is dismantling the famous tree. A beautiful warm night, good friends and colleagues, a delicious roast beef buffet, good wines and cocktails all contributed to a great evening.

— Sonya K. Fry



OPC office staff and party organizers from left to right, Sonya Fry, Jane Reilly and Boots Duque.



Author Rita Cosby, formerly of MSNBC and her guest, Alexandra Preate of Capital HQ.



Don and Lolita Holt drove all the way from New Hampshire for the party. They assured everyone that they voted in the primary before leaving for New York.



Jane Reilly, Foundation Director; Tala Dowlatshahi of Reporters Without Borders and Jeremy Main, retired from *Fortune* magazine.



Patricia and Jeremy Main in the foreground enjoy conversation with Audrey and Seymour Topping.

Bill Collins of Ford Motor Company, Kate Hunt of Care International and Allan Dodds Frank of Bloomberg.



Spike in Violence Toward Journalists Takes Its Toll in 2007

OPINION

by Kevin McDermott

Every year about this time reports appear from press freedom organizations around the world totaling up the number of journalists dead and wounded in the year before. For the past five years or so the headline has been roughly the same: Last year was bloodier than the year before. The only variation is how the numbers are added up.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, for example, got out of the gate first in December with a report entitled "Journalist Deaths Hit Decade Peak" which counted 64 journalists killed in direct connection to their work in 2007 — up from 56 in 2006. (CPJ is still investigating another 22 deaths to determine whether they should also be counted as work-related.) The International Federation of Journalists counted 171 journalists killed in 2007 — close to the all-time record of 177 set in 2006. Reporters sans Frontières, meanwhile, tallied 86 journalists killed. However the data is reckoned, RSF concluded, "the number of journalists killed has risen 244 percent in five years."

Iraq, of course, has been the most dangerous place in the world to be a reporter since the war there began in March 2003. According to CPJ, since the beginning of the war 124 journalists and 49 "media workers" have been killed; about a third of these worked for international news organizations, which in itself is unusual since most journalists who die as a consequence of their work are local people covering local stories. Again, RSF comes in with a higher number for Iraq: 207 journalists and media assistants killed since the start of fighting.

"No country," said RSF in December, "has ever seen more journalists killed than Iraq, with at least 207 media workers dying there since the March 2003 U.S. invasion — more than in the Vietnam War, the fighting in ex-Yugoslavia, the massacres in Algeria or the Rwanda genocide."

Covering a war is an inherently dangerous thing, of course, and while all casualties are terrible some are to be expected among combat reporters. But as CPJ points out, it is not war but murder

that is the leading cause of work-related deaths for journalists around the world. Indeed, says CPJ, about seven in 10 journalist deaths in 2007 were homicides. And that proportion has been holding roughly steady for the past several years.

Another apparently enduring trend of the new century has been the threat to journalists working in nominal democracies.

In last year's *Dateline*, for example, I noted the alarming spike in violence of all kinds against reporters and editors in countries like Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines and Venezuela — all with elected governments and all with a troubling deterioration in the social value of press freedom. Looking at 2007 it is hard to find reason for new encouragement.

In Mexico, for instance, reporters in rural areas still work in fear of gang lords. Only last October, for example, the entire reporting staff of *El Imparcial del Istmo* in Oaxaca — the entire staff — resigned one day after three of the paper's reporters were murdered. CPJ, quoting the Mexico City-based *Proceso* newsweekly, reports that in 2007 at least 20 journalists in the state of Michoacán alone were picked up by armed thugs allegedly belonging to corrupt police groups or organized gangs. Crime reporters are the most common targets, but "the risks affect all of us," according to Amada Prado, a veteran reporter for *La Opinión* in Apatzingán. "Your association with the newspaper can be reason enough for criminals to target you."

In another well-known democracy — the Philippines — CPJ counts at least 32 journalists killed as a consequence of their work since 1992, the first year the organization started keeping track. For reporters that puts the Philippines among the top-five most murderous countries in the world. It is most dangerous away from the big city of Manila. In rural areas crime lords and local officials displeased by aggressive reporters sometimes seem to exercise the power of life and death almost without impunity. Only a month ago newspaper columnist and radio personality Ferdinand Lintuan was murdered after a broadcast on Mindanao Island. Many of Lintuan's colleagues speculate that his reports of corruption among local developers created powerful enemies.

2007 Press Freedom Round-up From

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

2007

- 86 journalists and 20 media assistants were killed
- 887 journalists were arrested
- 1,511 journalists were physically attacked or threatened
- 67 journalists were kidnapped
- 528 media outlets censored

Online

- 37 bloggers were arrested
- 21 physically attacked
- 2,676 Web sites closed or suspended

2006

- 85 journalists and 32 media assistants were killed
- 871 journalists were arrested
- 1,472 journalists were physically attacked or threatened
- 56 journalists kidnapped
- 912 media outlets censored

Police on Mindanao arrested a local politician's bodyguard several days later.

It's hard not to see a connection between violence against journalists and institutional disrespect for the value of press freedom. In Pakistan, for example, five journalists were killed last year. The situation of our colleagues there has been in decline for several years, capped off by anti-media ordinances put into place by President Pervez Musharraf. These ordinances gave legal authority to police to make warrantless arrests of members of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, the country's largest media organization, and the Rawalpindi/Islamabad Union of Journalists, Pakistan's largest local journalist organization. In November, for instance, when journalists in Karachi protested President Musharraf's declaration of a state of emergency, more than 180 were placed under arrest.

It is a measure of the thriving, defiant culture of journalism in Pakistan that there were 180 journalists in Karachi to be arrested that day. To pursue journalism as a profession under such conditions takes a day-to-day courage that is hard to imagine at this safe distance.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

GLOBAL: OPC Foundation Scholarship winners continue to move into reporting jobs. **Emily Rotberg** now is in London freelancing for the *Financial Times* after completing a two-month internship with the paper in November. She won last year's Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship with an essay on the end of Fleet Street's journalistic legacy. In an e-mail report to the OPC, Rotberg wrote, "[When] Northern Rock appealed to the Bank of England for emergency liquidity support, I found myself covering the first British bank run since 1973. I have also been covering emerging markets and U.K. news stories."

Anupreeta Das, who won the 2006 Reuters Scholarship, now is reporting on venture capital and technology in Reuters' San Francisco bureau. She won the scholarship with an essay on the effects of outsourcing to China and India, arguing that outsourcing has increased the disparity between rich and poor in India.

After winning the 2006 Don Eldon scholarship for her essay on Sudan's humanitarian crisis, **Rawya Rageh** was hired as a producer for Al Jazeera English. Finally she got the assignment she wanted, a one-month reporting trip to southern Sudan, Darfur and the Chadian border while embedded with African Union troops. In an e-mail she wrote, "We landed an interview with the president of Sudan, Omar al Bashir, who defended his government's policies in Darfur and in the south and said rebel groups are being encouraged by foreign powers who want to destabilize Sudan... During our embed with African Union forces, we saw first-hand how under-equipped these troops are, however, how adamant they are on serving their continent, strongly believing in an African solution for African problems."

ALGIERS: During Algeria's civil war in the 1990s, **Chawki Amari**, one of Algeria's best-known news commentators and cartoonists, never slept in the same apartment two nights in a row.

Like many journalists, he was caught between Islamic militants who threatened to take his life and a military-backed government that threatened to take his freedom. In May last year, he was sentenced to two months in prison for defamation. Now he is again under pressure. *New York Times* correspondents **Katrin Bennhold** and **Souad Mekhennet** reported in late December, "Several editors at prominent newspapers say they have received faxes, e-mail messages and letters signed by Al Queda in the Islamic Maghreb, North Africa's most active militant group, vowing to attack journalists once again."

BEIJING: In December the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China reported that journalists are experiencing repeated violations of China's temporary Olympic reporting regulations that are supposed to allow foreign correspondents to travel freely and interview anyone who consents in the lead up to and during this summer's Olympic Games and Paralympics in Beijing. In a written statement, **Melinda Liu**, FCC president, said, "While the year-old regulations have improved overall reporting conditions for foreign journalists, we are particularly troubled by repeated violations in several areas – including Beijing and Hebei – where plainclothes thugs have intimidated or physically assaulted foreign journalists. Police should investigate the attacks, and assailants should be prosecuted." Liu, *Newsweek's* Beijing bureau chief, is an OPC member.

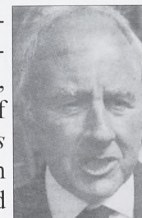
CHICAGO: Canadian press baron **Conrad M. Black** is scheduled to start serving a 6½-year prison sentence March 3 after his conviction in federal court last year on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice. Black, 63, was found guilty of swindling \$60 million from investors in his Chicago newspaper company and trying to cover it up by removing 13 boxes of documents from the Toronto

offices of his media company, Hollinger International. **F. David Radler**, 65, former publisher of *The Chicago Sun-Times* and Black's No. 2 man in Hollinger, was sentenced to 29 months in prison for his role in the fraud. He received a lighter sentence than Black after pleading guilty and testifying against Black.

Black denied the charges and told reporters outside the courthouse, "I think the fact we're appealing speaks for itself." Black's media empire once included London's *Daily Telegraph*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Chicago Sun-Times* and scores of other papers in the United States and Canada.

In a statement to staff that was published in his newspaper, **Seth Lipsky**, editor-in-chief of *The New York Sun*, wrote, "In my view, Conrad Black is one of the greatest newspapermen of his, or any time – and in my own career, he has been an inspiring partner and a friend... If he does go to prison, I hope he will be able to send us some columns." Lipsky told "People" that Black's Hollinger company was one of the investors who launched *The Sun* in 2002, putting in about 4 percent but later selling its stake. Before starting his paper, Lipsky over the years was a correspondent, columnist and editor of *The Wall Street Journal's* Asia edition in Hong Kong, European edition in Brussels and the U.S. edition in New York.

COLLEGE PARK, Maryland: Named for the late **Leon Daniel**, a UPI correspondent in Asia and Europe, and his companion, **Judith Paterson**, a former journalism professor at the University of Maryland, the Daniel-Paterson Scholarship was established in 2006. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to journalism students at Maryland. Last year's winner was **Olivia Logan**, who lived in three countries while growing up as the daughter of a



David Radler



Conrad Black

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

U.S. Navy officer. She hopes to become a foreign correspondent after graduating this May. **Emily McAllen** won the first scholarship in 2006. She interned last summer in Ireland for the *Irish Examiner*.

LAKE NATRON, Tanzania:

Television reporter **Forrest Sawyer** escaped with only a knee injury last December when the helicopter that he and his crew were aboard flipped over and landed upside down in the shallow waters of Lake Natron. "I've been in wars and stuff like that," Sawyer, 58, said. "But I'd never come as remotely close to dying as in this." He and his crew were taking wildlife shots when one of the helicopter's pylons touched the lake's surface, causing the helicopter to flip. Sawyer's producer for his "Presidential Tour" documentaries on the Travel Channel suffered a broken hip and the pilot a broken leg.

LONDON: **Mark Bryant**, secretary of the London Press Club since 2000, has been elected a director and life member of the LPC. He plans to step down as secretary in April to pursue other interests. In a written statement, LPC Chairman **Steve Oram** said, "Mark has done a terrific job for the LPC over the past seven years, including running the office, editing the LPC journal *Press News* and successfully organizing many events."

MOSCOW: When **Natalia Morar**, an investigative reporter for Moscow's *New Times* magazine, returned to Moscow from a trip to Israel December 16, she was banned at the airport from entering Russia and put on a plane to her native Moldova. No explanation was given, but her editor said she may have been expelled for an article about the 2006 murder of Russia's deputy central bank governor and the Kremlin's misuse of money. **Larry Martz** and **Norman A. Schorr**, co-chairs of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, protested the expulsion in a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

NEW YORK: The Anti-Defamation League awarded *Newsweek* editor **Jon E. Meacham**, an OPC member, with its Hubert H. Humphrey First Amendment Freedoms Prize in November. Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director, said,

"At a time when ADL and America were engaged in an intense conversation about the role of religion in politics, it was Meacham who contributed immensely by setting the record straight about the intent of our Founding Fathers. Meacham, himself a man of faith, has made and continues to make an important contribution to the public's understanding of America as a nation of faith, but not governed by faith."

Ed Jackson, a longtime OPC member and retired editor of *World Press Review*, is recuperating at home this winter after lung and leg ailments and surgery kept him in a hospital and rehabilitation center for nearly four months until October 25. "I

haven't been in a restaurant since June," Jackson told "People" in a strong and cheery voice. "I'm doing OK, but I walk with a walker and am still an out-patient in rehabilitation."

Vietnam War correspondents **Kate Webb** and **David Halberstam** are among the people profiled in the 2007 "The Lives They Lived," the annual year-end issue of *The New York Times Magazine* about people, some famous, some not, who died during the year. The article on Webb describes how she, then a UPI correspondent, along with a Japanese photojournalist and four

Recent Newsweek Cover Stories Penned by OPC Members

OPC members **Melinda Liu** and **Fareed Zakaria** wrote the cover stories, "Mao to Now," and "The Rise of a Fierce Yet Fragile Superpower," respectively, in *Newsweek's* December 31/January 7 issue, "China 2008."

Born and raised in the American Midwest, Liu finally got her chance to go to China in 1979 after Beijing and Washington established diplomatic relations. Now *Newsweek's* Beijing bureau chief, Liu in her seven-page cover article, wrote that in 1980 "*Newsweek* hired me to run the first American newsmagazine bureau in Beijing since the communists came to power." She's been covering China ever since.

She wrote, "Back in 1980, I thought I'd plunged headlong into the journalistic Dark Ages. My office was a bat-infested eighth-floor room at the Quianmen Hotel. Whenever I finished composing a new story on the typewriter, I hopped on a bicycle and pedaled like mad to the city's public Telegraph Building several miles away. There I typed the copy on an antiquated telex machine before carrying the perforated paper tape across the cavernous room to a distant counter and pleaded with the clerk (a state employee of course) to do his job and send it out."

Liu saw China advance over the years and its selection to host the Olympic Games this summer. "China's leaders needed the Games the same way they needed Hong Kong. They had to keep earning the public confidence — what use to be called the Mandate of Heaven — with ever bigger and better achievements: joining the World Trade Organization, putting their own man in space, building the world's biggest dam, the highest railway, even the tallest Ferris wheel. At some level all Chinese are driven by the dream of reclaiming their ancient imperial glory."

Zakaria, a *Newsweek* columnist and editor of its international edition, wrote in his cover article, "Recall what China looked like only 30 years ago. It was a devastated country, one of the world's poorest, with a totalitarian state. It was just emerging from Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, which had destroyed universities, schools and factories, all to revitalize the revolution. Since then 400 million people have been lifted out of poverty in China — about 75 percent of the world's total poverty reduction over the last century. The country has built new cities and towns, roads and ports, and is planning for the future in impressive details." Zakaria concluded, "Beijing's mandarin class is convinced that the United States wishes it ill. Washington, meanwhile — sitting atop a unipolar order — is unused to the idea of sharing power or accommodating another great power's interest."



Melinda Liu



Fareed Zakaria

Cambodian news staffers were captured in Cambodia by Vietnamese soldiers in 1971. After her obituary was published in newspapers around the world, Webb and the others were freed. They had been held captive three weeks. The Halberstam article, written by **Neil Sheehan**, told how Halberstam of *The Times* and Sheehan of UPI cooperated in covering the war during the early 1960s. Kate, 64, died in May in Australia of cancer. Halberstam, 73, was killed in April in an automobile accident in California.



Kate Webb

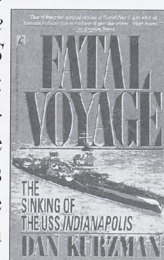


Left to right, David Halberstam, Malcom Browne of AP and Neil Sheehan in the Mekong Delta 1963

Dan Rather, the former CBS News anchor, narrates a new 30-minute video "Graduation Day" about four partying teenagers. The anti-drunk driving story on HDNet was produced by **Bob and Carmen Pack**, whose two children were killed by a drunken driver in Danville, California, in 2003. "I am excited and proud to be part of such a worthy film project," Rather, an OPC member, who was quoted in the *New York Post*.

Dan Kurzman has signed the rights for a Broadway play to be based on his book about Adolf Hitler's World War II plot to kidnap and perhaps kill Pope Pius XII and loot the Vatican. "I've never written a play, so a playwright will be retained," Kurzman told "People." The plot that was never carried out is described in his book *A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII* [Cambridge,

Massachusetts: De Capo Press, 2007]. The producers said the play will open in a year, but Kurzman is not holding his breath. Shortly after his book *Fatal Voyage: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis* [New York: Atheneum] was published in 1990, the book's movie rights were sold. But no movie version has ever been produced. That book is an account of the July 30, 1945 sinking of the U.S. Navy cruiser by a Japanese submarine after the cruiser delivered vital parts of the Hiroshima bomb to Tinian Island. About 880 Indianapolis crewmen lost their lives, the worst disaster in American naval history.



A hitchhike on a motorcycle and a borrowed cell phone enabled AP to file the first flash on Benazir Bhutto's assassination, **Mike Silverman**, the wire service's senior managing editor, wrote in a memo to his staff. AP reporter **Zarar Khan** was counting bodies after a bomb exploded during a Bhutto rally in Rawalpindi December 27. A Bhutto supporter told Khan he should rush to Rawalpindi General Hospital rather than linger on the blood-soaked street.

The reporter started running to the

hospital until he flagged down a motorcyclist who took him the rest of the one mile to the hospital. There he borrowed a cell phone (his was lost in the bombing chaos) to call in the news that Bhutto was seriously injured and in surgery.

When Khan confirmed Bhutto's death, the news was flashed to the world by AP's Pakistan bureau chief, **Matt Pennington**. For his scoop, Khan received the AP's \$500 prize awarded each week for top coverage.



Benazir Bhutto moments before she was assassinated.

PERUGIA, Italy: Robert Elegant reported in a January e-mail to "People" that he "is now attacking his long-postponed non-fiction *Shanghai: Portal and Key to China, Ancient and Modern* with renewed vigor, being free of pain for the first time in two years after an urgent [November] operation to replace a worn-out hip joint." Elegant described the book as "not long and dull, but reasonably

(Continued on Page 8)

PARIS: At the 100th anniversary banquet of the Anglo-American Press Association in December, **Ben Bradlee**, 86, former executive editor of *The Washington Post*, reminisced on his reporting experiences in Paris. AAPA committee member **Ronald Koven** provided a copy of Bradlee's prepared text, excerpted here: "More than 50 years ago when I was the *Newsweek* correspondent here, I was arrested one afternoon on the Rue de Berri [for a report from Algeria], served with a *decret d'expulsion*, leaving me 36 hours to pack and leave the country... The French press thankfully took a dim view of expelling correspondents, especially former press attachés, and the expulsion decree was ultimately canceled. For years I carried around a little card in my wallet, saying 'Le decret d'expulsion est annule.'"

"[Paris correspondents in the 1950s] were quite an extraordinary group, gifted reporters, of course, but especially gifted in the fine art of living, and enjoying the glories of that time and this city. The dollar produced 500 francs on the black market, and a good lunch with a glass of wine cost no more than 350 [francs]. I had special affection for the small group which met regularly at one end of the Crillon Bar. **Bernard Valery** of the *New York Daily News*, **Sam White** of the *Evening Standard* in London, **Crosby Noyes** of the *Washington Star*, **Harold King** of Reuters, **John Hiscock** of J. Arthur Rank. And others. There seemed to me then a warmth, an informality, and camaraderie to foreign correspondence, especially war correspondence. That's probably because our wars were smaller and quicker. I mean Algeria, certainly, but also the Arab-Israeli conflict, were not Vietnam.

"One of the toughest times for a foreign correspondent occurs when the big shot from the home office, editor, publisher or owner, shows up, and wants to be entertained — and sometimes, even informed."

During the AAPA anniversary gala, attended by more than 100 members and guests in the left-bank L'Hôtel where Oscar Wilde lived and died, Bradlee was awarded the French Legion of Honor.

(Continued From Page 7)

short and punchy, thus entertaining, written not by a dry-as-dust scholar but by a newsman/novelist." Elegant was an International News Service correspondent during the Korean War and then for many years covered Asia for *Newsweek*. Author of several non-fiction and fiction books, Elegant has won four OPC awards for foreign reporting and was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong 1961 to 1962.

PHNOM PENH: Last September, King-Father Norodom Sihanouk bestowed Cambodia's Legion of Honor on retired news magazine correspondent **Bernie Krisher** and his wife **Akiko** for their humanitarian work. The king presented the awards, Cambodia's highest, at lunch in the Royal Palace attended by their daughter **Debbie** and 20 donors to Krisher's charities. A conference room in the new U.S. Embassy was named the Bernie Krisher Room. Krisher, 76, has spent many years collecting money to build schools in Cambodian villages that lacked schools.

A year ago, *New York Times* columnist **Nicholas Kristof** wrote an article about Krisher's rural school project that led to an ABC News report. Krisher told "People" the publicity generated enough donations last year to fund 50 more new schools, bringing to some 400 the total number of schools built in Krisher's program. Kristof, an OPC member, was one of the donors. Also last year, Krisher started two new projects in Cambodia, an orphanage for children whose parents died or are dying from HIV/AIDS, and a scholarship program for academically talented kids from poor rural areas. Krisher, a former correspondent in Asia for *Newsweek* and *Fortune*, offers an internship each year at the *Cambodian Daily* to a winner of an OPC Foundation scholarship. He founded the English-language paper in 1993.

SÃO PAULO, Brazil: Broadcaster **João Alckmin** was wounded in the neck, back and arms in November when a gunman fired on him while he was walking his dog. The dog attacked the assailant who escaped on a motorbike. Alckmin, 55, host of the program "Showtime" on Rádio Piratininga, has been investigating the criminal control of gaming machines with police collusion. In a letter to

Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, **Tala Dowlatshahi** and **Larry Martz** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, cited two earlier attacks on journalists last year and wrote, "Despite progress in press freedom, your country is still plagued by violent physical attacks against and murders of journalists, sometime implicating the police."

SYDNEY: In a case long in dispute, an Australian coroner ruled in November that the Indonesian Army killed five Australian-based journalists in 1975 and then disguised their bodies to make it appear they were accidentally shot in crossfire. Dorelle Pinch, deputy state coroner for New South Wales, said the Indonesian Army covered up the killings to prevent news of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor, then a Portuguese colony, from reaching the outside world.

The coroner said Indonesian forces dressed the bodies of the journalists in Portuguese military uniforms and photographed them with weapons before burning the bodies. The Indonesian government rejected the report, saying the journalists were killed in cross fire between Indonesian troops and Timorese nationalist fighters. The journalists were Australians **Greg Shackleton**, 27, and **Tony Stewart**, 21, and New Zealander **Gary Cunningham**, 27, all working for Melbourne's Channel 7; and **Brian Peters**, 29, and **Malcolm Rennie**, 28, of Great Britain, working for Sydney's Channel 9.

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Court has ordered a new investigation into the death of **Zahra Kazemi**, 54, an Iranian-Canadian journalist who was killed in 2003 while she was in custody. Muhammad Reza Aghdam Ahmadi, an intelligence agent, was acquitted in 2004 on charges of inflicting a fatal blow on Kazemi. A spokesman said the Supreme Court found flaws in the acquittal and has sent the case to a new court for investigation. Kazemi was arrested while she was photographing outside Evin prison.

TOKYO: In its December issue, *Number 1 Shimibun*, the magazine of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, examined the future of print journalism in the multimedia electronic age. **Thomas Glocer**, CEO of Reuters Group, told an FCC news conference, "I like papers, but I'm not a

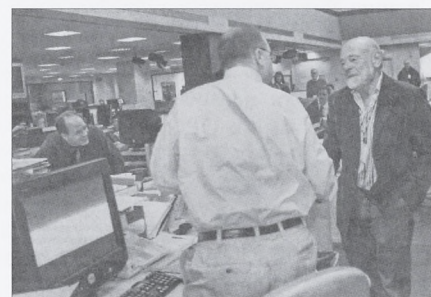
huge believer in their long-time future as an output device." When he addressed the FCC, **John Squires**, Time Inc.'s executive vice president said, "Print is still our core business and is still



Yukiko Ogasawara

very strong. Three-quarters of U.S. consumers still read magazines in print, even when the same content is available online." **Yukiko Ogasawara**, president of *The Japan Times*, the first woman to head that English-language daily, told the FCC magazine, "I think the newspaper business still has a few years left here. It's habit, comfort." Tokyo-born Ogasawara, 46, earned bachelor and master's degrees from Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington and the California College of Arts and Crafts. Her father, **Toshiaki Ogasawara**, 76, chairman of Nifco Inc., manufacturer of plastic parts for automobiles and electronic appliances, bought the *Japan Times* in 1983 and is the newspaper's publisher.

In Chicago, real estate tycoon **Samuel Zell**, who engineered an \$8.2 billion deal that made the Tribune Company a non-profit company owned by an employee stock ownership plan, said, "I'm sick and tired of listening to everybody talk about and commiserate about the end of newspapers. They ain't ended. And they're not going to be." Newspapers owned by the Tribune Company include the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday* and *Baltimore Sun*.



Sam Zell, right, visits the Chicago Tribune newsroom.

Nearly 200 members and guests gathered in the Foreign Correspondents' Club to enjoy music, drinks, warm crêpes, salad and fresh fruit at a party last autumn that raised 500,000 yen (about

U.S.\$4,587) for the FCC's scholarship program. The scholarship fund is named for the late **Swadesh DeRoy**, Press Trust of India correspondent and Club president 1979 to 1980, who established the fund in 1981. His widow, **Atsuko DeRoy**, told the party that her husband's wish was for scholarships "to help and support young journalists in Asia financially, because he had those difficulties himself" after graduating from the University of Calcutta just before India became independent in 1947. The scholarship program has awarded 1 million yen (about U.S.\$9,174) to Asian journalists.

VIENNA: **Hrant Dink**, the Turkish-Armenian editor and columnist who was murdered in January last year, has been named the 52nd World Press Freedom Hero by the executive board of the International Press Institute. Dink founded and edited *Agos*, a bilingual Turkish-Armenian weekly as a voice for Turkey's Armenian minority and Turkish-Armenian reconciliation. A Turkish nationalist shot Dink, 52, in the head and neck outside his office in Istanbul. Dink's IPI award was presented to his widow, Rakel Dink. IPI Director **Johann P. Fritz** said, "The murder of Hrant Dink deprived Turkey of one of its most courageous and independent voices, and it was a terrible event for Turkish press freedom in general."

WASHINGTON: OPC member **Elias Demetracopoulos** was awarded Greece's Medal of Commander of the Order of Honor in January "for outstanding services rendered to Greece in his capacity as a journalist." In announcing the award, Greek Ambassador Alexandros Mallias wrote that Demetracopoulos "is a Greek journalist with a history of opposing Greece's military dictatorship, during which he lived in exile in Washington, where he lobbied quietly and selflessly against the Greek junta."

CORRECTION: **Walter Cronkite** and **Dan Rather** are current members of the steering committee of The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. They were not members of the original steering committee as reported in the January *Bulletin*.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Gerald Astor served in the 97th U.S. Infantry Division in World War II and then went on to write books about foot soldiers, sailors and pilots in combat. "Combat is a terrible experience," Astor told CNN in a 2005 Veterans Day interview. "At the same time, it's very exciting, and the life that one leads in the military builds bonds that last a lifetime." From interviews and correspondence with WWII veterans and accounts from their journals, Astor wrote books on the D-day invasion of Europe, Battle of the Bulge, Eighth Airforce missions over Europe, invasion of Okinawa, African-Americans in the military, and biographies of Major General Terry Allen, a combat commander in North Africa and Europe, and Dr. Josef Mengele, a Nazi medical experimenter.

Astor was photo editor of *Sports Illustrated* and an editor for *Sport* magazine, *Look*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Time*. He wrote a biography of heavyweight champion Joe Louis. Astor, 81, died December 30 at his home in Scarsdale, New York, of an apparent heart attack.

Hugh Massingberd, 60, sometimes called the father of the modern British obituary for the wit and frank comments that he put into obituaries, died of cancer December 25 in London, where he lived. He was obituaries editor of the *London Telegraph* from 1986 to 1994. In *The New York Times* obituary, **Margalit Fox** wrote, "Mr. Massingberd transformed the paper's obituaries from ponderous, sycophantic eulogies into mordant, warts-and-all profiles of the delectable departed... In his hands the newspaper obituary became unabashed entertainment, and the page attracted a passionate following that endures to this day. It also helped to set a benchmark for newspapers throughout Britain, where obituaries are now far more irreverent, more editorial and more prurient than their American counterparts." A *Telegraph* obituary noted that one Lt. Col. Geoffrey Knowles "as a subaltern was bitten in the buttocks by a bear



— he survived but the bear expired." A 1991 obituary opened, "The Third Lord Moynihan, who has died in Manila, aged 55, provided through his character and career ample ammunition for critics of the hereditary principle. His chief occupations were bongo drummer, confidence trickster, brothel-keeper, drug smuggler and police informer."

Sylvan Fox, 79, a former *New York Times* correspondent in Saigon, died in a New York City hospital of pneumonia December 22. Trained as a classical pianist, he spent his career as a reporter at several newspapers in upstate New York, on the rewrite desk at *The New York World-Telegram & Sun*, reporter and editor at *The Times* and finally editorial page editor at *Newsday*. His only foreign assignment was *Times* Saigon bureau chief in 1973. Fox was the first rewrite man to win a Pulitzer Prize. In 1962 when an airplane crashed on Long Island killing all 95 passengers, reporters at the scene telephoned their notes to Fox on the *World-Telegram* desk. He wrote the first article within 30 minutes of the crash and rewrote the article for seven editions of the paper, producing a 3,000-word article within 90 minutes of the crash. The Pulitzer was awarded to Fox and two colleagues in the now-obsolete category of "local story, edition time."

Douglas E. Kneeland, 78, who edited foreign news at *The New York Times* and later the *Chicago Tribune*, died of lung cancer December 15 in Lincoln, Maine, where he was born. After working on newspapers in Maine, Massachusetts and Ohio, he joined *The Times* in 1959 as an editor on the foreign and metropolitan desks. Later as a *Times* reporter, he covered the Charles Manson trial, the arrest of Patricia Hearst's kidnappers and the killing of students at Kent State University by National Guard soldiers. Kneeland was *Times* bureau chief in Chicago in 1981 when he joined the *Chicago Tribune* as national and foreign editor, later becoming associate managing editor and public editor. In 1993, he returned to his hometown, where he wrote a column and editorials for the weekly *Lincoln News*.

(Continued on Page 11)

Past Mixes With the Present, Again and Again

EVENT RECAP: JAN. 15

by Aimee Rinehart

Many present circumstances in the world could all point back to the bungling of one event. "In fact, so many crises have happened as a result of the Versailles Treaty, I wonder if we could blame the sub-prime mortgage crisis on it," said interlocutor Craig Whitney, with tongue-in-cheek.

"There's a chapter on the economic repercussions...", said David Andelman, author of the book *A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today*.

Whitney led the conversation with veteran foreign correspondent Andelman, both of whom are OPC members, to a standing-room only OPC and World Policy Institute book night that took place on January 15.

The book traces the outcome of the deliberations through the history of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Andelman also paints a vivid picture of the glittering social whirl that accompanied the negotiations in Europe.

The book began when Andelman wrote an honors thesis on the treaty at Harvard University. "It intrigued me as an incredible turning point in history."

Andelman became a journalist and traveled to more than 50 countries as a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* and CBS News, interviewing people for various arti-



At the reception before the event, pictured from left to right: Bill Holstein, Executive Director of the World Policy Institute Michele Wucker, Craig Whitney, David Andelman and his wife, Pamela.

cles. Whenever he asked the people he interviewed what they believed were the root of their problems, many said, "after the first World War, the Versailles Treaty."

"This happened so often," Andelman said. "I knew it was time to write this book."

As his first book, Andelman, who is also currently executive editor of *Forbes.com*, said he has learned a lot about the publishing industry. For example, *A Shattered Peace* is shelved in the history section at book stores, but Andelman says it's misplaced. He said he's had to do a lot of leg work to reinforce the message that the book is not history, but current events through the prism of history.

When Whitney asked who was responsible for the mismanagement of the Versailles Treaty, Andelman said it was hard to single out any one person. However, President Woodrow Wilson comes to mind with half of the public who think he was a terrible president, the other half thinking he was terrific. Andelman said that Wilson's blunder was his misinterpretation of self-determinism.

"All of the unpublished diaries from people who were on the delegation all said Wilson had no idea what he wanted to say once they made it to the meeting in Europe," said Andelman.

Since the treaty's impact has been

legendarily negative, it might lead one to believe the many U.S. Presidents would use it as a lesson of what not to do. Whitney asked, "When U.S. presidents try to bridge the gap between Palestine and Israel, do they go back to the Versailles Treaty?"

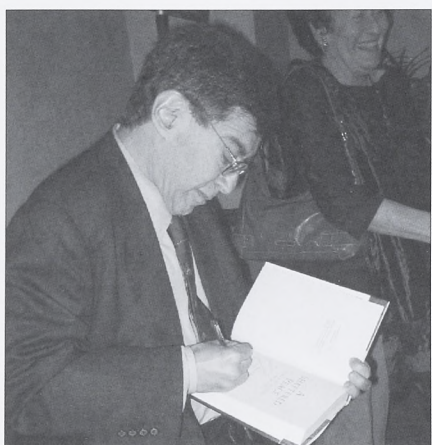
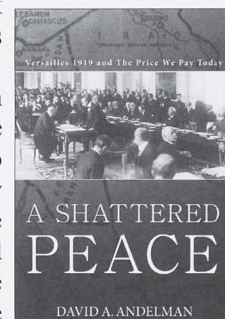
Andelman said that there has been no sense that any President since Wilson has paid attention to the effects of the Versailles treaty.

"Even in this primary Presidential campaign," Andelman said. "The only candidate who's raised the issue of the ramifications of the treaty is Ron Paul."

Looking beyond the present day, Andelman said the nature of nations is changing and listed the Balkans and Slovenia as examples.

"Small groups of people realize they can and should be countries," Andelman said. "In the future, we'll see more homogenous microstates. We have to understand the desires of the people to shape their own future."

Combining past and present political experiences with an eye toward tomorrow, Whitney added, "And that you can't bring democracy with an army."



David Andelman, taking a moment to sign a copy of his book after the standing-room only discussion.

People Remembered

(Continued From Page 9)

Barbara Bundschu, 91, who covered spies, crooks and the Cold War while working for UPI from 1942 to 1962, died December 6 in her San Francisco home. Most of her reporting was done in the United States. During the 1948 to 1949 Berlin Airlift she flew in one of the cargo planes that brought food and supplies to Berlin, then blockaded by the Soviets.

She covered the trial of Judith Coplan, the U.S. Justice Department security analyst who was convicted in 1950 of spying for the Soviets, a conviction later overturned on technicalities; Senator Estes Kefauver's investigation into organized



Bundschu interviews Gen. Douglas MacArthur. (Photo of Bundschu family)

crime in 1950 to 1951; and the John Birch Society that held that President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles were communists.

She traveled to Nepal and China shortly after it was opened to Western reporters. Bundschu's obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "Like most good newspapermen of that time, Miss Bundschu enjoyed her martinis and her Chesterfields." She smoked cigarettes into her 80s.



Richard McGowan, 77, a former New York *Daily News* foreign editor, died December 10 in Wicomico, Virginia. He also was a reporter, features writer, national editor and White House correspondent for the newspaper until 1968 when he switched to U.S. government work as a Congressional investigator. His exposé of a pornography racket won a 1959 Silurian Award.

Mildred Paranko, 87, mother of OPC Executive Director **Sonya K. Fry**, died on January 9 at the Bride Brook Health & Rehabilitation Center in Niantic, Connecticut, where she had lived since 2005.



She suffered a stroke three years ago and was left in poor health. During World War II she worked at the Electromotive Company in her hometown, Willimantic, Connecticut, and for more than 25 years worked at the U.S. Navy Submarine Medical Center in Groton, Connecticut.

She was a basketball fan dating back to playing on her high school's women's team and was an elegant dancer in the Big Band era. Her first husband, Michael Habern, Sonya's father, was a U.S. Army Air Corps bombardier, stationed in the Aleutian Islands, who was killed in action in a bombing raid over the Pacific Ocean during World War II. Her second husband, Michael Paranko, died in 1988.

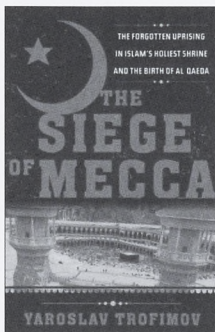
In addition to Sonya, she is survived by another daughter, Linda A. Paranko, and Sonya's children, Rebecca and James Fry. Mildred Paranko's mother was from Lithuania and her father from Russia. Originally named Emilia, her older sisters gave her the "more American" name of Mildred.

Memorial donations can be made to the Resident Council Fund, Bride Brook Health & Rehabilitation Center, 23 Liberty Way, Niantic CT 06357 or The Lighthouse Foundation c/o Beacon Hospice, 12 Roosevelt Ave 2nd floor, Mystic, CT 06355.

New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

Islam's Holiest Shrine and the Birth of Al Qaeda [New York: Doubleday]. The attacking gunmen, who came from a dozen countries including the United States and were led by Saudi preacher Juhayman al Uteybi, "believed that the Saudi royal family had become a craven servant of American infidels, and sought a return to the glory of uncompromising Islam," the publisher wrote.



"With nearly 100,000 worshipers trapped inside the holy compound, Mecca's bloody siege lasted two weeks, inflaming Muslim rage against the United States and causing hundreds of deaths." In Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini "blamed the

Great Satan – the United States – for defiling the shrine, prompting mobs to storm and torch U.S. embassies in Pakistan and Libya."

Unable to dislodge the occupiers from the shrine, the Saudi royal family enlisted the help of French commandos who knocked out the insurgents. Although most of the captured gunmen were beheaded, the Saudi royal family compromised with 'the rebels' supporters among the kingdom's senior clerics, helping them nurture and export Juhayman's violent brand of Islam around the world," the publisher wrote.

THE OPC HELD A PREVIEW this past July of a film on the occupation of Iraq, the guerrilla war that followed, warlord rule, criminality and anarchy.

Now that film has been turned into a book, *No End In Sight: Iraq's Descent into Chaos* [New York: PublicAffairs]. **Charles Ferguson**, a visiting political scientist at Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and the University of California at Berkeley, directed and produced the film that won a documentary award at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and wrote the book.

Here is how he described his book: "First, it is a comprehensive portrait of occupation policies, their errors, and their consequences. Second, it is the first detailed dissection of the extraordinary way in which some of



these decisions were made – in secret, by a small number of men who had virtually no relevant experience and who either failed to consult with, or overruled, the people on the ground and the military. And third, it takes a hard look at our current situation, and poses the most crucial question: What do we do now?"

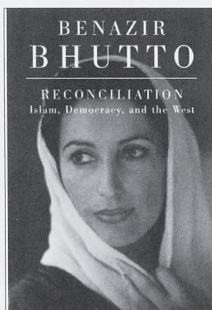
— by Al Kaff

New Books

ASIA

SHORTLY BEFORE SHE RETURNED to Pakistan last October, **Benazir Bhutto** signed a publication agreement for her book *Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West*, and the manuscript was received by HarperCollins in December.

When she was assassinated on December 27, the publisher moved quickly to get the book in bookstores by February.



Reconciliation is part political treatise and part memoir of the first woman to be elected prime minister of a Muslim nation. When HarperCollins Executive Editor **Tim Duggan** sealed the deal with Bhutto, he said, "Pakistan is an increasingly volatile place, and Bhutto's book in an eye-opening look at the mistakes we've made in the region and what we can do to correct them – as well as what the consequences will be if we don't."

The contract included an estimated \$75,000 advance to Bhutto, the *New*

York Post reported. An afterword was written by her husband, **Asif Ali Zaradi** with her three children.

HarperCollins also has bought paperback rights to Bhutto's autobiography, *Daughter of the East*, published in Britain in 1988. It will be reissued in the United States this spring under the title *Daughter of Destiny*.

It was noon in Rawalpindi on December 27 when Bhutto received an e-mail from Washington lobbyist **Mark Siegel**, her friend and collaborator on the book *Reconciliation*. Siegel reported that their publisher was pleased with the manuscript they had just turned in. He received a happy reply from Bhutto by BlackBerry. Six hours later she was dead.

A BEAUTIFUL BOOK of color photos and text tells how Afghan women, once executed or beaten for letting their hair be seen or leaving their family compound without permission, have transformed their world. Two American writers based in the Middle East, photojournalist **Katherine Kiviat** and Fox News correspondent **Scott Heidler**, record how Afghan women are working for continued reform in *Women of Courage: Intimate Stories from Afghanistan* [Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith].

The authors write, "The six years of Taliban rule was not only a black mark for the women of Afghanistan, but for the women of the world. But when the Taliban was overthrown, not all Afghan

women ran into the streets ripping their burkas off – and some never will. There are still many cases of abuse, suicide, oppression, attacks on girls' schools, and forced marriage going on even without the oppressive rule of the Taliban. Much work still lies ahead."



MIDDLE EAST

INFORMATION ON GLOBAL jihad's first attack in modern times was blacked out by Saudi Arabia's regime. During reporting trips through the Middle East, **Yaroslav Trofimov** of *The Wall Street Journal* heard passing references to the violent takeover of Islam's holiest shrine, the Grand Mosque in Mecca, by hundreds of gunmen on November 20, 1979. "It hit me: the events of these two turbulent weeks in late 1979 were a true turning point in modern history," Trofimov, a former OPC member, wrote.

"The story of the siege of Mecca really is a prequel to everything we know about Al Qaeda, a prequel that allows us to understand today's events in Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond." In 2005, he started his research and interviews that led to his latest book, *The Siege of Mecca: The Forgotten Uprising in*

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

OPC Book Night
Silicon Dragon:
How China Is Winning the Tech Race
by **Rebecca Fannin**
Monday, January 28
Reception 6 p.m.
Talk Begins at 6:45 p.m.
Club Quarters, 40 West 45 Street

OPC Foundation
Scholarship Luncheon
Friday, February 15
Yale Club at 11:30 a.m.
See page 2 for details

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA